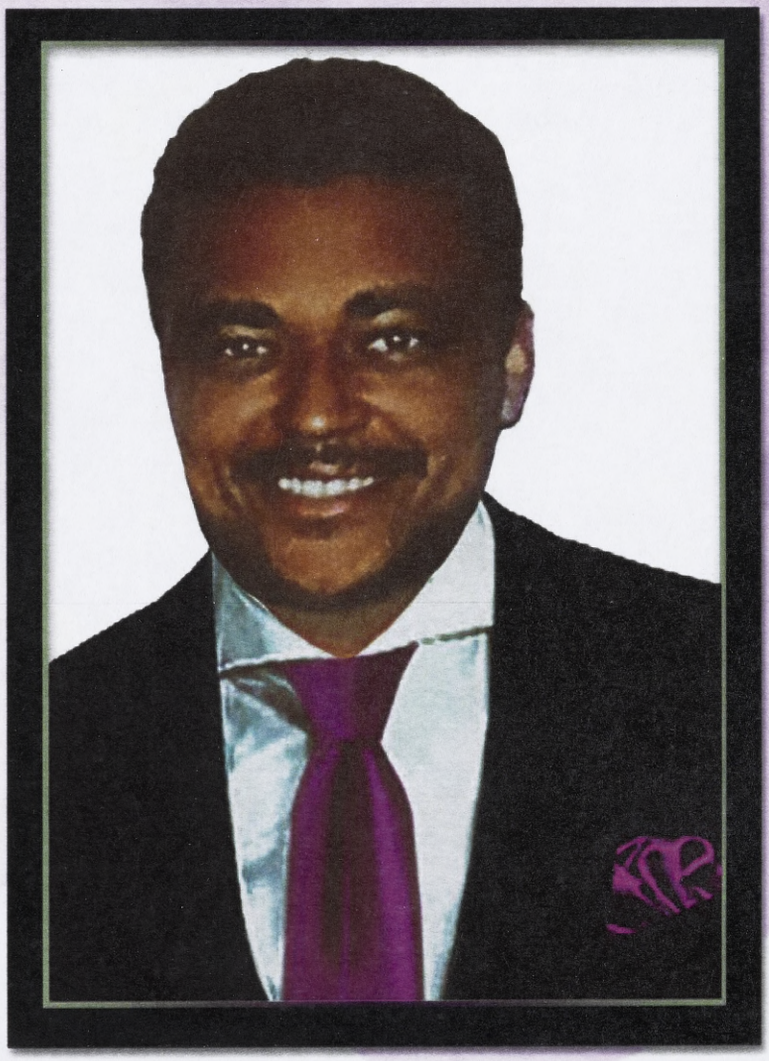
Martin Clifton

Sunrise: January 04, 1962

Sunset: June 11, 2021



CENTER OF HOPE CHURCH

8400 MACARTHUR BLUD, OAKLAND, CA

Obituary

Martin Jefferson Clifton III affectionately known as "Marty" was born on January 4th, 1962, in Oakland California. He was the first child of four born to Floy Dean Andrews-Clifton and Martin J. Clifton Jr. Both of his grandfathers were Pastors. The then Elder M.J. Clifton (Cherry Mahoney- Clifton)-East Oakland Church of God in Christ and his maternal grandfather Elder David Andrews (Exie B. Benson -Andrews) Pastored Calvary Apostolic Church of San Francisco.

Marty was a bright and athletic child who excelled at baseball, football, and basketball, where he developed leadership skills as a quarterback and third basemen. His friends will recall how hard he competed, how he hated to lose, and how he could talk as well as he played. Marty's love of sports led him to devour books about famous athletes and read the daily newspaper to check the stats of his favorite players. Marty could, from memory, recite the career stats of hundreds of players and sports teams in multiple sports. His main focus though were his beloved Raiders and Minnesota Vikings. Marty optimistically believed "This year is their year" no matter how bad all knew those teams would be.

He was also the eldest brother to his four siblings, as such he was playful and protective of his younger siblings, frequently battling his younger brothers in wrestling, sports trivia contests, and later on, in contests to recite biblical chapter on verse on any and every topic.

Marty was primarily raised by his grandmother Mother Cherry Clifton in his early years in San Ramon, Ca. and attended Country Club Elementary School. He was the only student of color in his school which prepared Marty in getting along with anyone and everyone. He had an amazing recall of the names of persons he grew up with, including one of his lifelong best friends, former San Ramon neighbor David Perlman, who was of great support. David and Marty bonded over sports and religion – and he attended church with Marty, and David and his family hosted Hanukkah with Marty. Mr. Shaun Wilson of Sacramento was of great assistance, as Marty found out he played football at Colorado State. Marty attended Burbank, King Estates, Skyline High School, (2 years) and finally James Logan H.S, where he graduated. During high school, Marty played football in High School all three years, and was the starting JV Quarterback both years at Skyline, and continued as a Defensive Back at James Logan H.S. In 1980-81. Special shout out to Bro. Houston of Sacramento for the love shown Marty.

He began to grow spiritually walked with God, ultimately entering the ministry under the initial tutelage of his grandfather the late Bishop Martin J. Clifton. Min. Marty Clifton was a prolific speaker who could mesmerize an audience without ever as much as raising his voice due to his amazing ability to interpret the scripture with insights that showed his seriousness about study, questioning, and learning from men and women of God from all over.

He was accepted into San Jose State University graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in African American History. He was accepted into Howard Divinity School. While there, he studied under the guidance of Dr. Cain Hope Felder, the Biblical Languages professor and author of Troubling Biblical Waters, a book that reveals the African origins of the Bible Scriptures. Marty did Internships with the United Methodist Church in Washington D.C., and St. Stephens COGIC Counseling Center, San Diego, Ca. In the annual Preaching Conference at Dean Rankin Chapel on Howard's Campus, Marty won the intense preach-off amongst students and was declared Most Impressive Student Minister.

Returning to California, he was Ordained and appointed as Interim Pastor in Sacramento and began an education program for youth called "It Pays to Be Smart" where he raised funds and distributed to students on Report Card Sundays. Reflecting on her tenure on the City Council Atty. Desley Brooks said "Marty was so special. He was our friend, our protector, our comforter, and our peacemaker. He was the Mayor of Seminary and MacArthur. He had a kind heart and a giving spirit." Marty remained in Oakland and worked to support himself. He could debate you about why his beloved Minnesota Vikings were going to win the Superbowl then start a good debate Malcolm and Martin and the utility of Non-Violence as a tool for Advancement in a violent country. Shakespeare must have had Marty on his mind when he wrote "All the World's a stage, and one man in his time plays many parts."

Marty played his part well. Scholar, Athlete, Avid Reader, Philosopher, Poet, Laborer, Friend, Brother. We are better for having been a part of his life. May he rest now in Power and be reunited with his loved ones who have gone before him, and the God of Mercy makes all things new.

Marty's transition was preceded by his parents. Further, his memory is carried forth by his siblings, Mark Anthony Clifton, Sr. (Melissa J. Clifton) of Oakley, Ca. Myron Jerome Clifton (Sacramento, Ca.), Denise Wrighting-Clifton (Felecia Brown) (Las Vegas, NV.) and Monique Janae Clifton(Stockton, Ca.) his nieces, nephews, hosts of cousins, extended family of Aunts and Uncles, and many friends who will all miss him dearly.

1973☆
Bishop Clifton

Order of Service

Officiant.....Elder Dan Gardner
A Family Welcome.....Uncle Bill Andrews
Opening Song "The Sun is Going to SHINE".....East Oakland COGIC Praise Team
Prayer.....Pastor Andre Benson
Scripture Reading "Psalms 121".....Deacon Charles Ray Tharp
Reading of the Obituary.....Melissa J Clifton
(First Lady East Oakland Church of God in Christ)
Reflections 2-3 minutes.....(Please line up)
Ms. Deirdre Renee Clayton
Ms. Venus Zuhuria Noble
Mr McGarity Kimble
Rev Dr. D Mark Wilson
Musical Selection.....East Oakland COGIC
Reflections.....Mrs. Carolyn Bankston (Mom's best friend)
David Perlman (CEO, Perlmanrep and International Brandsin America)
Elected Officials:
Erin Hannigan (Solano County Board of Superuisors)
The Honorable Attorney Desley Brooks
(Oakland City Council-Dist 6 (past))
"A Tribute to My Brother".....Pastor Mark Anthony Clifton, Sr
.(East Oakland Church of God in Christ
Remarks of Guest Clergy.....(3 mins)
Selection.....Mr. Lenny Williams (Recording Artist)
The Message of Comfort.....Reverend Dr. Jeffrey M. Parker, Sr.
..(Pastor, Church of All Faiths, Oakland, Ca.)
Words of Thanks and Degree Conferral.....
Mr. Myron Jerome Clifton (youngest brother)
Uncle Vernon Andrew, Ph D

Pallbearers

Robert "Bobby" Worth
Michael Johnson
Bobby Ray Simpson
Shaun Wilson
Joe Gudger
Hugh Mahoney

Tribute to Floy Dean Andrews-Clifton
Written by MARTIN J. CLIFTON III
Floy's Oldest Child

It was a sad, somber, and soft morning, January 24, 1985, at 5:00am, when our precious Mother, Mrs. Floy Dean Clifton, departed from this planet called earth.

Mama, it was a sad morning because sorrow and unhappiness gripped our bleeding hearts.

Mama, it was a somber morning because the blue skies your children saw were turned into dark clouds of gloom and despair.

Mama, it was a soft morning because our hearts were easily smashed by the untimeliness of your departure.
Oh, how our souls miss thee!

We miss you Mama, because your heavenly femininity made motherly love to our hungry hearts;

We miss your smile because to your children, it was a smile that ended all smiles.

We miss you because you loved us.

We praise you for your patience; we praise you for your gentleness.
We praise you for your understanding; we praise you for your love;.
We praise you for bringing us here Mama.
MartinIII, Mark, Myron and Monique say -
Thank You, Thank You,
Thank You and God Bless You.

---WRITTEN BY MARTIN J. CLIFTON III
Floy's Oldest Child

SIR WINSTON FUNERAL HOME
515 BROADWAY ST, VALLEJO, CA